

REMARKS:

By this Amendment, Claim 17 has been amended and new Claims 33-47 have been added. Accordingly, Claims 15-47 are currently pending in this application while Claims 21-32 currently stand withdrawn. The amendment to Claim 17 and newly added Claims 33-47 are fully supported by the originally filed application. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by this Amendment.

In the Office Action dated June 4, 2008 claim 17 was objected to due to typographical informalities and claims 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,533,345 to Starp ("Starp"). Claims 18-20 were objected to but the Office Action indicated that claims 18-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By this Amendment, claim 17 has been amended to correct the spelling error pointed out in the current Office Action. Accordingly, the objection to claim 17 is now moot and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of independent claim 15 as anticipated by Starp. Starp does not disclose or suggest, among other things, a rotary photographic shutter including a damping system operable to arrest the movement of a drive means, as recited by claim 15.

The Office Action characterizes the spring 16, pin 18, and lug 20a taught in Starp as a damping system, as recited in claim 15. However, Applicants respectfully disagree with this characterization. Nowhere, in either the drawings or the written

description, does Starp disclose or suggest that the spring 16, pin 18, and lug 20a, either alone or in combination, could be a damping system, as recited in claim 15. Instead, the Starp passages cited by the Office Action merely describe these components as being configured to, along with other components of the Starp assembly, assist in releasing a locked push button 10.

The Office Action also characterizes some combination of the drive ring 20', bar magnet 4', electromagnet 5'-6', and lever 8' as being a drive means including an actuator, as recited by claim 15. Applicants also respectfully disagree with this characterization. However, assuming *arguendo* that one could construe some combination of these components to be either a drive means or an actuator, the alleged damping system of Starp (i.e., the spring 16, fixed pin 18, and lug 20a, either alone or in combination) is not operable to arrest the movement of the drive ring 20', the magnet 4', the electromagnet 5'-6' and/or the lever 8'. Based on at least Figs. 1 and 2 of Starp, and the corresponding written description thereof, the only structures configured to arrest the movement of, for example, the drive ring 20', and/or the magnet 4' are the poles 5a', 5b' of the electromagnet 5'-6' itself. As explicitly stated in Starp, "[t]he free end of the permanent magnet 4' designated as the south pole, may travel back and forth between the poles 5a' and 5b' of the electromagnet 5'-6'. This end of magnet 4' engages the pole 5a' when the shutter is in the closed position, while it engages the pole 5b' when the shutter is in the open position." (Starp, col. 3, ll. 1-6.)

Because a damping system operable to arrest the movement of the drive means, as recited in claim 15, is not disclosed or suggested in Starp, the rejection of claim 15 is improper and should be withdrawn. Should the Examiner wish to continue the

present rejection in a next office action, Applicants request that the Examiner provide specific citation to any teaching in Starp of: 1) any combination of the spring 16, lug 20a, and fixed pin 18 as a damping system; and 2) one or more of the spring 16, lug 20a, and fixed pin 18 being operable to arrest the movement of the drive means allegedly taught in Starp. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 33-39 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 15. These dependent claims are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons stated above with regard to claim 15. In addition, these dependent claims each recite unique combinations that are neither taught nor suggested by the applied prior art, and therefore each is also separately patentable.

Applicants also respectfully traverse the rejection of independent claim 16 as anticipated by Starp. Starp does not disclose or suggest, among other things, a damping system on a base plate operable to dampen the opening and closing of rotating ring operable shutter blades, as recited by claim 16.

As noted above, the Office Action characterizes the spring 16, fixed pin 18, and lug 20a taught in Starp as being a damping system. The Office Action also characterizes the drive ring 20' of Starp as being a base plate, as recited in claim 16. Applicants respectfully disagree with each of these characterizations. In particular, nowhere, in either the drawings or the written description, does Starp disclose or suggest that the spring 16, fixed pin 18, lug 20a, either alone or in combination, could be a damping system as recited in claim 16.

In addition, the spring 16, fixed pin 18, and lug 20a are not, either alone or in combination, configured to dampen the opening and closing of rotating ring operable shutter blades, as recited in claim 16. Instead, as the Office Action points out, Starp states that, "[i]n the opening phase of the shutter, lever 15 executes a counterclockwise rotary motion limited by the fixed pin 18." (Starp, col. 3, ll. 49-50.) As shown in Fig. 2 of Starp, the spring 16 and fixed pin 18 have no contact with the shutter blades 21', the drive ring 20', or the magnet 4', and it is not clear how either of these alleged damping system components could be in any way operable to dampen, for example, the opening of the shutter blades 21' illustrated therein. Moreover, although lug 20a is formed by the drive ring 20' of Starp, based on the clear teaching of Fig. 2, the lug 20a is not in any way operable to dampen, for example, the opening of the shutter blades 21'. In fact, based on at least Fig. 2, no component of the Starp assembly is configured to dampen at least the opening of shutter blades 21', as required by claim 16 and, the Office Action is silent with respect to this limitation. Thus, should the Examiner continue the rejection of claim 16 in a next office action, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide specific citation to any teaching in Starp of a damping system operable to damping the opening and closing of the rotating ring operable shutter blades, as recited in claim 16.

Furthermore, assuming arguendo that one could construe the spring 16, fixed pin 18, and lug 20a to be a damping system operable to dampen, as recited in claim 16, this alleged damping system is not on the alleged base plate (drive ring 20') of Starp, as required in claim 16. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of Starp, at least the spring 16 and the fixed pin 18 are not even in communication with the drive ring 20'. Instead, the Starp figures show at least the spring 16 and the fixed pin 18 as being

wholly separate from the drive ring 20'. In addition, while the lug 20a may be formed by the drive ring 20', the lug 20a is not, by itself, a damping system nor was it alone characterized as such by the Office Action. In fact, as explained above and as shown by at least Fig. 2 of Starp, the lug 20a is not operable to dampen the opening and the closing of the shutter blades 21'. Although claim 16 explicitly requires a damping system on the base plate, the current Office Action is silent with respect to this limitation.

Due to the above deficiencies of Starp, the rejection of claim 16 is improper and should be withdrawn. Should the Examiner continue the rejection of claim 16 in a next office action, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a specific citation to any teaching in Starp of a damping system on the base plate operable to dampen the opening and closing of rotating ring operable shutter blades, as recited by claim 16. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-20 and new claims 40-42 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 16. These dependent claims are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons stated above with regard to claim 16. In addition, these dependent claims each recite unique combinations that are neither taught nor suggested by the applied prior art, and therefore each is also separately patentable.

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

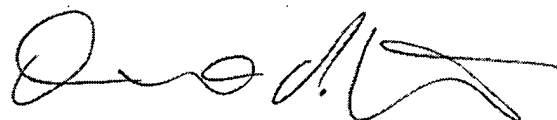
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 4, 2008



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